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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY China
 SUBJECT Economic - Water conservation
 HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers
 WHERE PUBLISHED China, New York
 DATE PUBLISHED 14 Dec 1952 - 29 Jan 1953
 LANGUAGE Chinese

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952 - 1953

DATE DIST. 13 May 1953

NO. OF PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT TO
 REPORT NO.

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PROGRESS OF CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN CHINA

Summary: Construction on the second phase of the Ching Chiang Flood Diversion Project, begun in mid-December 1952, was 83 per- cent completed by 8 January 1953. The work involves moving 8,634,381 cubic meters of earth. The diversion tunnel of the Kuan-ting Reservoir on the Yung-ting Ho in North China, begun in late 1951, has been completed. Footings for the dam are now being prepared.

The first electrically powered irrigation station in Kiangsu Province, capable of irrigating 140,000 mou (one mou equals 1/6 acre), is nearing completion. Spray irrigation equipment has been developed in North China with the aid of Soviet spe- cialists.

SECOND PHASE OF CHING CHIANG PROJECT PROGRESSING -- Hankow, Hupeh Jih-pao, 29 Jan 53

Up to 8 January 1953, the 180,000 workers on the second phase of the Ching Chiang Flood Diversion Project, involving the movement of 8,634,381 cubic meters of earth in construction of protective dikes and drainage canals, had completed 83 percent of the project. The work was begun in mid-December 1952.

About the time the work was to begin, the water level in the Hu-tu Ho fell so low that it seriously interfered with the transport of food and supplies to the site. Because of these shortages, as well as lack of medical supplies and the dampness of the working area, the discomfort of which was accentuated by a spell of cold weather and lack of winter clothing and bedding, there was a great deal of sickness among the workers, amounting to 10 percent in some groups.

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Dissident elements took advantage of these conditions to create discontent among the workers. Even arson and poisoning were resorted to. The result was a serious letdown in the morale of the laborers.

By strenuous efforts, party and government officials brought about an improvement in the health and clothing situation and instituted strong political and patriotic education programs to revive the morale of the workers. The campaign has been largely successful. Workers are showing their enthusiasm by moving 1-4 cubic meters of earth per day with an average of 2.13 cubic meters per person. They also endure great hardship. For instance, to keep seepage water out of an excavation, a girl less than 17 years old, a member of the New Democracy Youth Corps, with eight companions worked all night up to their knees in water in piercing cold with dippers and buckets. Many of the workers worked in water up to their waists to make the required excavations.

PROGRESS ON KUAN-T'ING RESERVOIR -- Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 14 Dec 52

Peiping, 11 December (Hsin-hua) -- The diversion tunnel of the Kuan-t'ing Reservoir on the Yung-ting Ho in Hopeh, which will carry the river water around the dam during construction, has been completed and put into use. This makes possible beginning of work on the footings of the dam itself. It is expected that by next flood season, the dam will be sufficiently well advanced to hold the flood waters.

The work on the tunnel was begun in October 1951, and the tunneling was completed in June 1952. Since then, the workmen have been putting in the concrete lining of the tunnel which was finished 20 November 1952.

The tunnel required the removal of 102,600 cubic meters of rock and 24,595 cubic meters of earth. The lining required 13,200 cubic meters of concrete.

During the job, the workmen and technicians found a way to save 15 kilograms of cement in each cubic meter of concrete for a total saving of about 1,000 tons of cement. At the same time, the compression strength of the concrete was raised from 186 kilograms to more than 200 kilograms per square centimeter. By consultations among the workmen, the rate of filling the concrete forms was raised from 2 cubic meters per shift of 80 to 90 men to 4.8 cubic meters per shift. Since the opening of the tunnel, the 12,000 workmen now on the job have been busy excavating for the dam footings, although hampered by snow and low temperatures.

ELECTRICALLY POWERED IRRIGATION STATION NEARS COMPLETION -- New York, Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 18 Jan 53

Hong Kong -- The first modernized electrically powered agricultural irrigation station in Kiangsu Province will soon be in operation near Ehr-ling in Tan-yang Isien according to a Nanjing report. This Ehr-ling electrically powered irrigation station is composed of eight electrically operated pumping units. The installations of these pumping units include 27 motors of 75 horsepower each and 27 vertical screw-type water pumps which provide water for 60 main and branch inlet canals permitting a flow of water for the irrigation of 140,000 mou of fields. Also, there are 50 locks of various kinds in the system so that the station can regulate the water level at all seasons.

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Since work was begun last October on this conservation installation; the general basic plan has been completed, including 45 percent of the engineering construction for the main and branch canals and 20 percent of that for the locks. After the project is finished, if the water supply is ample, the area for planting paddy rice can be increased by 40 percent.

SPRAY IRRIGATION INTRODUCED -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 17 Jan 53

With the advice and direction of Soviet Specialists Bukhov and Ivanov, equipment for spray irrigation has been perfected by the North China Agricultural Research Institute. Essentially, it consists of a force pump, piping, and nozzles. The advantages claimed for the system are:

1. It is easier to use on uneven ground than surface irrigation systems.
2. It requires up to 50 percent less water.
3. It retards alkalization of soil.
4. It preserves capillary structure of the soil.
5. It prevents fertilizer loss through run-off.
6. It provides complete water control.

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